

Impacts, Products and Signature Events of EPF Projects supported by the Kingdom of the Netherlands



Kingdom of the Netherlands



EURASIA
PARTNERSHIP
FOUNDATION



Towards Sustainable Reform: Promoting Freedom of Religion or Belief in Armenia

Project objectives

- To advance FoRB in Armenia through regular policy work, advocacy efforts and strengthening capacities of religious or belief organizations.
- To address the issue of teaching religion in schools via research, policy dialogue with the MoESCS (Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport), and building credible alternative options for opt-outs.
- To contribute to the improvement of the quality and professionalism of media publications on issues of tolerance and diversity.



FoRB-related issues have been emphasized by EPF, using the project-funded and maintained

- kronadaran.am,
- religions.am,
- FoRB Conferences and subsequent reports,
- Media Award Initiative,
- Advocacy and Visibility work.



As a result of EPF's recommendations, advocacy work and consistency in focusing on FoRB issues, several laws containing discriminatory clauses, which have been restricting members of religious organizations at the time of employment in

- Rescue Service of Armenia,
- Penitentiary Service,
- Judicial Acts Compulsory Enforcement Service,

have been renewed in 2020. The combination of these achievements is both empowering minorities but also giving them a voice in a social/political context full of prejudices, and tackling the idea of a spiritual superiority, societal discrimination, fear and isolation.



2017 Draft Law on Making Amendments to the Law of the Republic of Armenia on the Freedom of Conscience and on Religious Organizations

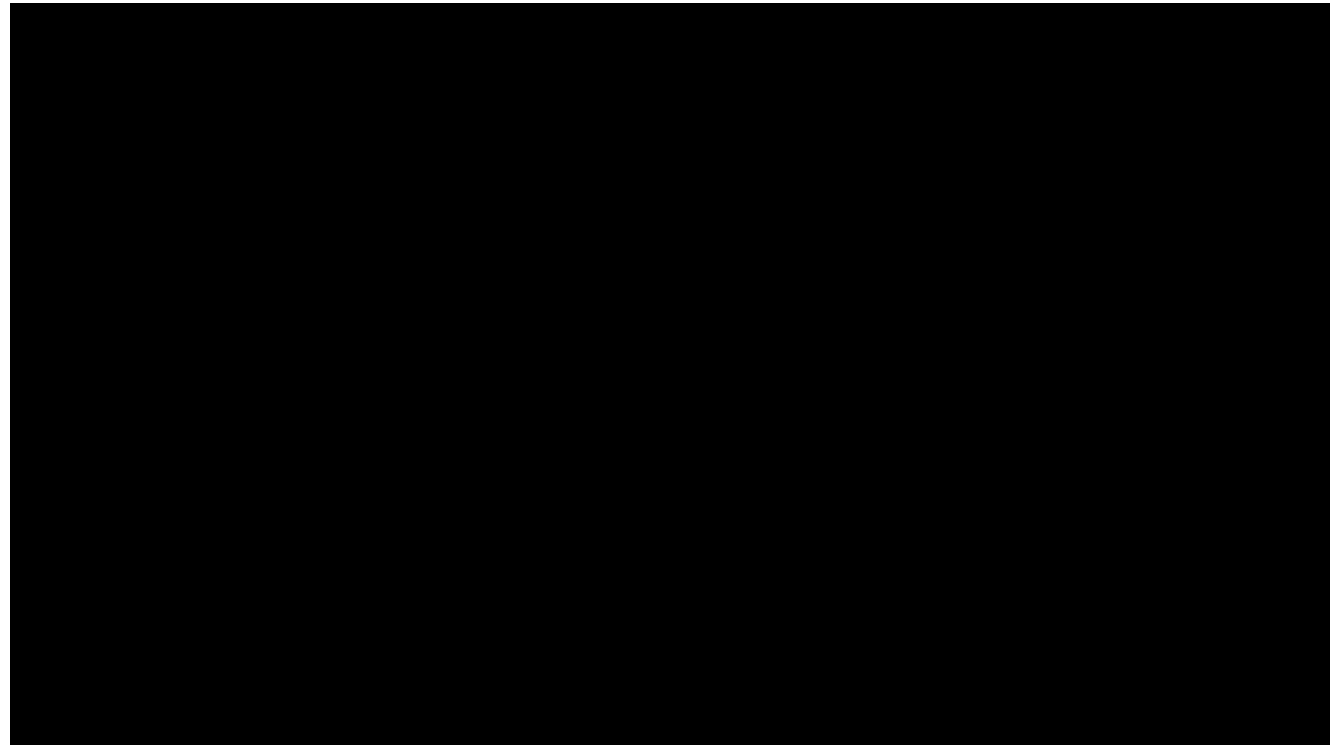
- Risk of discriminatory approach and undermining the foundations of equality and secularism.
- EPF submitted a clarification request to the MoJ enquiring whether the Draft law will be equally applicable to the AAC due to the ambiguous wording of the Draft.
- The Ombudsman of Armenia Mr. Arman Tatoyan had submitted the Draft law to OSCE/ ODIHR for review per EPF's request.
- To mitigate possible risks with the Draft, EPF also approached the OSCE/ODIHR Senior Adviser on Freedom of Religion or Belief, who suggested that that National Human Rights Institution (the Ombudsman of Armenia) officially apply to OSCE/ODIHR with a request to provide a review of the Draft. Thanks to these timely advocacy measures, the government's plan, if any, to pass the law quietly to the Parliament failed since too many local and international actors had been already engaged.



Signature Events: Contemporary Issues of Freedom of Religion or Belief Regional Conferences

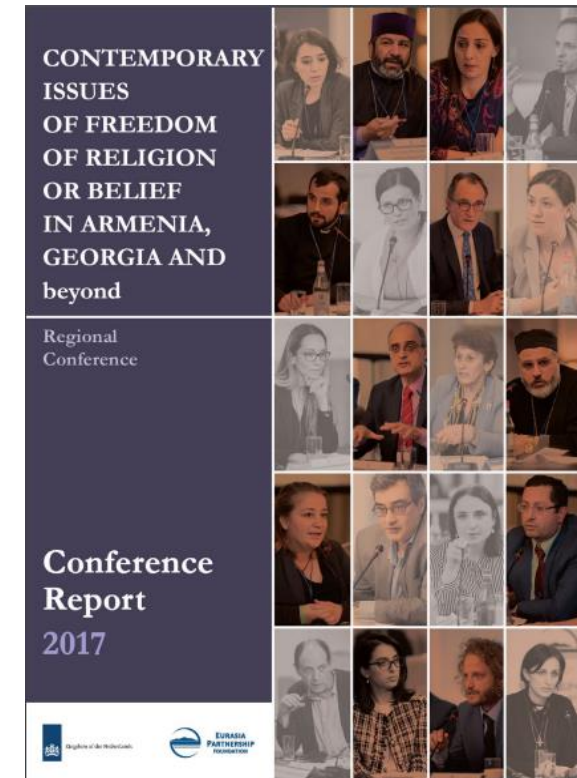
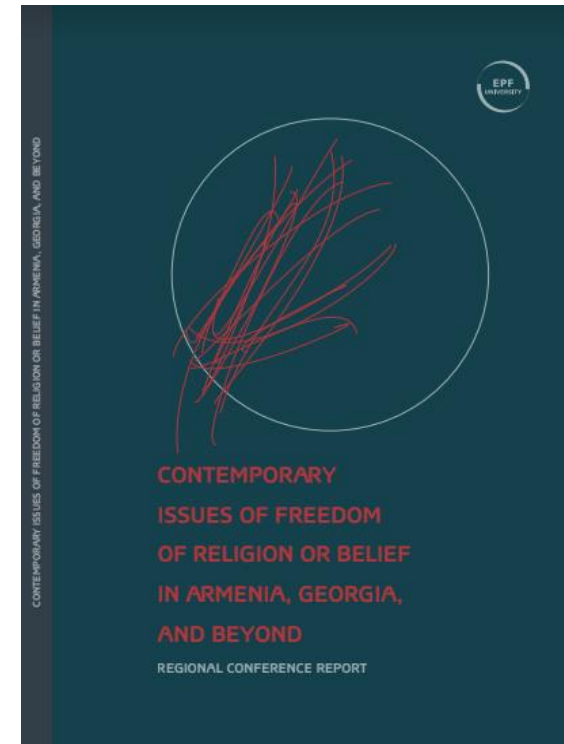


Signature Events: Annual Media Award Contests for the best coverage on religious tolerance



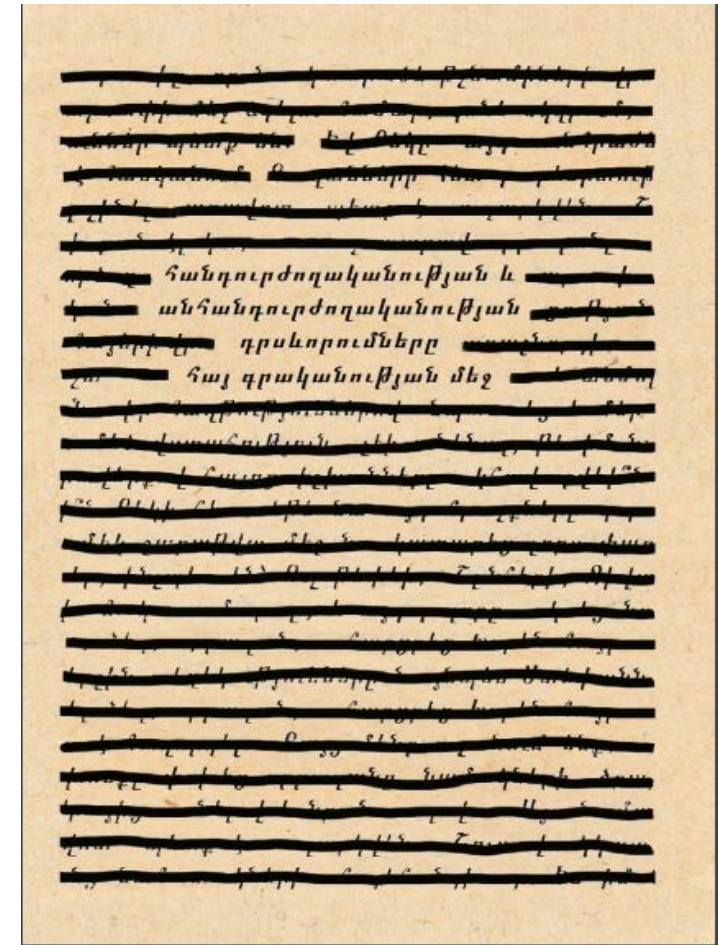
Contemporary Issues of Freedom of Religion or Belief in Armenia, Georgia, and Beyond. Regional Conference Reports (2020, 2017)

- On May 7, 2017 and on May 24, 2019 two regional conferences on Contemporary Issues of Freedom of Religion or Belief in Armenia, Georgia and beyond took place in Yerevan. These subsequent Regional Conference Reports provide an overview of the sessions and the text of the speeches – such as on global challenges of FoRB, International Standards of FoRB and the situation in Armenia and Georgia, issues regarding education, secularity, equality between men and women, the role of interreligious dialogue in conflict transformation, and conflicting rights.
- These conferences provided a platform for officials, religious leaders, religious groups and organizations, civil society dealing with FoRB issues from Armenia and Georgia, international experts and representatives from international organizations and embassies to discuss the situation and developments of FoRB from different perspectives.
- To download 2020 report please click [here](#).
- To download 2017 report please click [here](#).



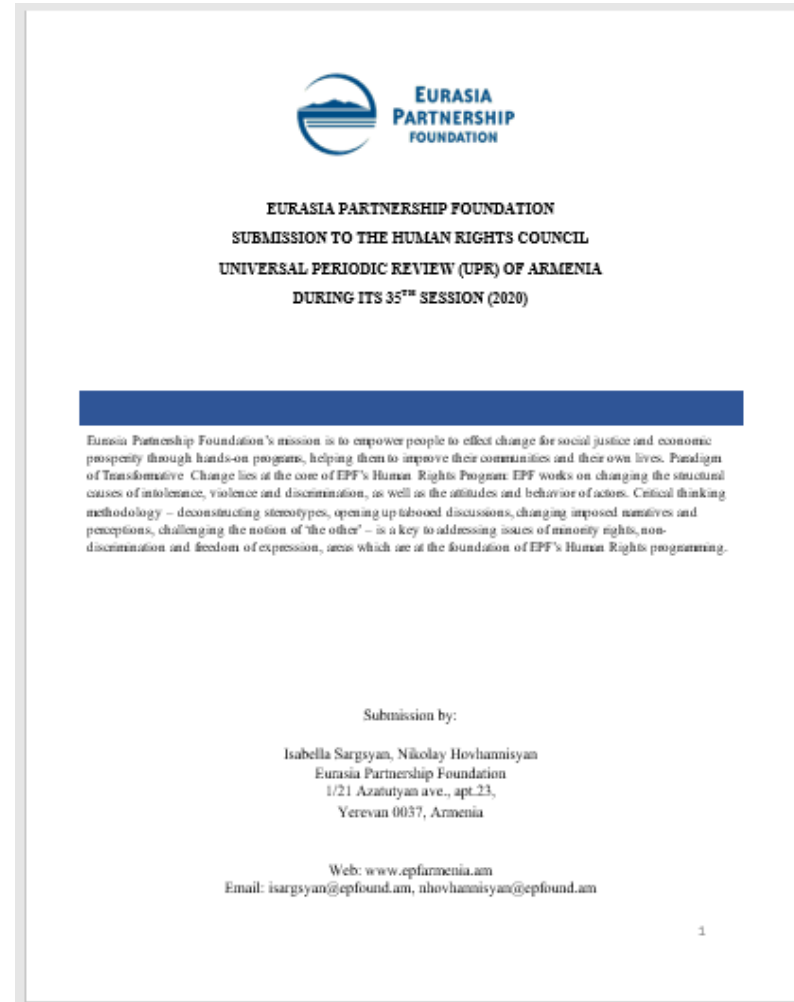
Manifestations of Tolerance and Intolerance in Armenian Literature (in Armenian, 2017)

- A collection of studies titled “Manifestations of Tolerance and Intolerance in Armenian Literature” have been released! The studies were conducted with the support of the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to Georgia and Armenia.
- The studies examine the roots of tolerance and intolerance and their manifestations in Armenian language texts passed on from generation to generation. They present this through an academic and popular approach, and attempt to foster a meaningful debate on these issues. The studies include Armenian medieval sagas, the classic prose of the 19th and 20th centuries, along with the literature of the Diaspora, the prose of post-Soviet Armenia as well as textbooks.
- In essence, the book provides a guided tour through the whole body of Armenian literature which, in turn, offers a particular pleasure to the reader and presents a condensed image of the development tendencies in Armenian literature.
- To download the book please click [here](#).



Submission to the Human Rights Council Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Of Armenia during its 35th session (2020)

- In 2019 Eurasia Partnership Foundation made an individual submission to the Human Rights Council Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Armenia during its 35th Session (2020). In the report, EPF acknowledges the Armenian government's efforts to improve its human rights record, but also draws attention on several emerging human rights issues relating to anti-discrimination and freedom of religion or belief. In light of the aforementioned issues, EPF makes recommendations for the state under review.
- To download the report please click [here](#).



Production and broadcasting a series of short documentaries and TV Talk Shows

[Under the same sky \(in Armenian\)](#)

The film dwells upon the issue of human intolerance towards the adherents of different religions and its consequences.

[Molokans: Reality without myths \(in Armenian\)](#)

This documentary film aims at depicting the life of Molokans living in Armenia.

[Persian spaghetti \(in Armenian\)](#)

A personal story about Armenian-Iranian friendship.

[Counterpoint \(in Armenian\)](#)

Dialogues about belief and tolerance. The film is a distant conversation between two believers.

[Knots \(in Armenian\)](#)

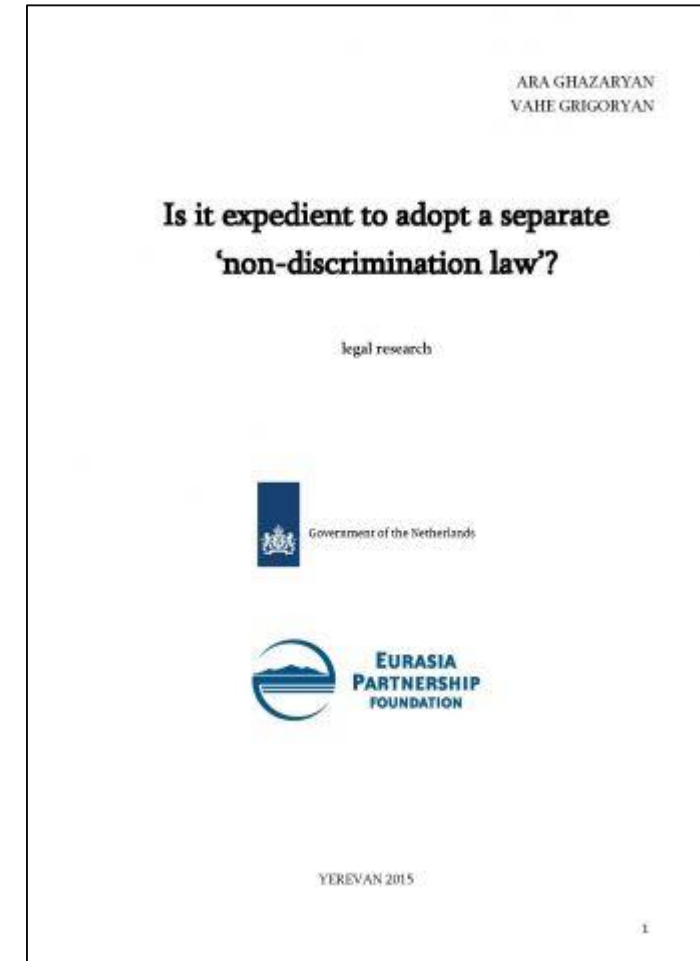
The film provides the illustration of religious intolerance in Internet.



Anti-Discrimination

Is it expedient to adopt a separate 'non-discrimination law'? (Legal Research)

- This research aims to find out whether a separate non-discrimination law is needed for the domestic legal system of Armenia as an effective remedy for people who claim to be victims of discrimination.
- To download the report please click [here](#).



- Religious Tolerance In Armenia (2012 - 2013)
- Promoting Religious Tolerance in Armenia, second stage (2013 - 2014)
- Towards Adoption of Anti-discrimination Legislation in Armenia (2015)
- Promoting Religious Tolerance and Non-discrimination in Armenia (2015-2017)
- Towards Sustainable Reform: Promoting Freedom of Religion or Belief in Armenia (2018-2021)



Advocacy within the EU and the UN

Recommendations ahead of the 11th EU-Armenia Human Rights Dialogue

- Freedom of Religion or Belief
- The Right of the Child to Education, to Freedom of Thought, Conscience and Religion, Violence against Children
- Anti-Discrimination (Draft Equality Law)
- Draft Law on National Minorities
- Judiciary reforms
- Probation system
- Amendments to the Law on Non-Governmental Organizations

Individual Submission To The Human Rights Council Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Of Armenia During Its 35th Session

- The ban on discrimination and recommendations on Draft Equality Law
- Recommendations on Freedom of Religion or Belief
- Advocacy and Follow-Up (Interim Reports to be submitted)

